(Rs. per Quintal)

Commodity	*MSP*
Wheat	750
Barley	565
Gram	1445
Masur (Lentil)	1545
Rapeseed/Mustard	1715
Safflower	1565

(b) The objectives of MSP policy include the need to provide incentive to domestic producers for adopting technology and maximizing production; need to ensure rational utilisation of land and other production resources. The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) takes into account, apart from other factors, international market price situation for fixation of the MSP.

(c) The increase of Rs. 100 for 2006-07, over 2005-06, in the MSP of wheat is aimed at ensuring sufficient stocks of foodgrains in the country. Alternative strategies, if the need arises, can be considered.

Suicides in Vidarbha

260. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as many as seven farmers including women committed suicide in a single day in Vidarbha taking the toll to 1045 since June, 2005;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to provide relief to the aggrieved families in Yavatmal region in Yavatmal district;

(c) whether Government are also aware that in the month of October, 2006 only, 112 suicide cases were recorded in the Vidarbha region; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider complete waiver of private as well as Government outstanding loans of farmers, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Stopping recovery of loan

†261. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) wehther it is a fact that keeping in view the case of increasing incidents of suicides amongst farmers a national committee has suggested to stop the loan recovery in the calamitous areas immediately;

(b) if so, what are the other recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether it has been also stated in the report that profit is gradually decreasing in the agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Farmers has recommended, *inter-alia*, a debt waiver for the smallest and weakest farmers in distress hot spots. The related recommendations are conducting a census of suicides, stepping up of credit and putting in place a Parivar Bima Policy.

(c) and (d) The Commission has also pointed out that the cost-risk-return structure of farming is becoming adverse to the farming families operating small holdings. The recommendations made by the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

NCF Recommendations

262. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has recommended five point programme for rejuvenation of agriculture sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.